

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

I. General Remarks and Disposition of the Claims

Please consider the application in view of the following amendments and remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for her careful consideration of this application. At the time of the Final Office Action, claims 1-30 were pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 7-18, and 22-30 were rejected in the Final Office Action. Claims 4-6, and 19-21 were objected to in the Final Office Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 4-6, and 19-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be “allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” (Final Office Action at Page 15.) Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner’s indication that claims 4-6, and 19-21 are allowable. Applicants have, by this paper, amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 4, and have amended claims 15 and 28 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 19, including the respective intervening claims. Applicants have additionally canceled claims 3, 4, 18, and 19, and amended claims 5-8, 10, 20, 25, and 29 to place the dependent claims in better condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 5-17, and 20-30 are allowable.

III. No Waiver

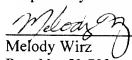
By not responding to additional statements made by the Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner’s additional statements, such as, for example, any statements relating to what would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, or what is inherent.

SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. Applicants further submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants believe that no fees are due in association with the filing of this response. Should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any additional fees be charged to McDermott Will & Emery's Deposit Account No. 500417, Order Number 086108-0112.

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Wirz
Reg. No. 53,783
McDermott Will & Emery
1000 Louisiana
Suite 3900
Houston, TX 77002
Telephone: 713.653.1722
Facsimile: 713.739.7592
Email: mwirz@mwe.com

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